

June 28, 2020

## **From Fr. Jim . . .**



**Ordinary Time:** Today is the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Liturgical season of Ordinary time is any time that is not Advent/Christmas or Lent/Easter, holy day of obligation or a major feast. It has been said already, in this column, that Ordinary Time is anything but ordinary. The gospels continue to proclaim the saving ministry of Jesus Christ, focusing on his miracles and healings and building the kingdom of God. Each Sunday is a “little Easter” as we give thanks for Christ’s victory over sin and death and as we rejoice in his resurrection.

If we use the word “ordinary” in an ordinary way at all during this liturgical season, it refers to ordinary human existence that meets up with and is converted by the extraordinary life of the Divine. The bottom line is always the same: there is nothing really that ordinary about this time of the liturgical year and nothing really that ordinary about us either. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia!

**Welcome! Welcome!** After a long delay because of the cancellation of the Easter Vigil because of the pandemic, our 14 catechumens, the Elect, were initiated last week in a series of special Masses just for them and their families. Because of the need for social distancing, we could not initiate them all at one Mass and especially at a Mass where the community could have attended also. We regretted doing this, but we had no choice but to spread the initiations over three days last week so, at least, there would be room for some of the family members to attend. Initiation is always a parish/communal event. It is a joint effort by the parish to welcome new members. Thanks to all our catechists and Rite of Initiation Team and to all of you for living your faith and being examples of God’s love and hospitality that invites others to come to the Faith. Welcome to all new members. It is a privilege and honor to share faith, be the Body of Christ together and give God Glory and Praise.

*“Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt.” Exodus 22:21*

### **Prayer to Overcome Racism**

*Mary, friend and mother to all, through your Son, God has found a way to unite himself to every human being, called to be one people, sisters and brothers to each other.*

*We ask for your help in calling on your Son, seeking forgiveness for the times when we have failed to love and respect one another.*

*We ask for your help in obtaining from your Son the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism and to build a just society.*

*We ask for your help in following your Son, so that prejudice and animosity will no longer infect our minds or hearts but will be replaced with a love that respects the dignity of each person.*

*Mother of the Church, the Spirit of your Son Jesus warms our hearts: pray for us. Amen.*

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